

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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## Federal Funds For Schools

Two emergency relief laws enacted during the special session of the United States Congress permit the use of limited funds for educational purposes, it is pointed out by Mrs. William T. Bannerman, Legislative Chairman.

These funds are available for school buildings under the public works provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and for payment of teachers' salaries on a "work relief" basis from funds provided by the Federal Emergency Relief Act.

Requests for information concerning these funds should be addressed to state or local school or relief officials.

Further information regarding federal funds for schools will be mailed to state presidents, bulletin editors, publicity chairmen, and legislative chairmen. Complete regulations will be sent to the state legislative chairmen for reference.

## Parents Study School Problems

A study outline on *A Modern Program of Financing Public Schools*, designed to familiarize parents with the problems of school finance, was endorsed by the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, at its September meeting in Washington, D. C. The study outline is based on the report of the National Conference on the Financing of Education, held in New York, July 31 to August 11, 1933, under the auspices of the Joint Commission on the Emergency in Education.

The study outline, which was prepared by Miss Charl O. Williams, Fifth Vicepresident, is available in plateprint form from the National Office, price 75 cents a hundred.

## Parent Education Broadcasts

A series of 12 weekly half-hour radio programs on parent education will be broadcast by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System, beginning in January, 1934. Details of the program—speakers, subjects, hours, etc.—will be announced at an early date. Members of the special committee on radio who are working on this project are Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, Chairman; Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Mr. B. H. Darrow, Mr. J. W. Faust, and Mrs. B. F. Langworthy.

## President's Aid Sought for School Emergency

The aid of President Roosevelt in relieving the educational emergency has been sought by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, following action of the Board of Managers at its meeting in Washington, D. C., September 18 to 22. Mrs. Hugh Bradford, National President, in a letter to President Roosevelt, asked his support of "a program for education which will insure the rights of children to be educated for citizenship and for life." Pointing out the need for awakening the public to a consciousness of the needs of education, Mrs. Bradford wrote:

"Your excellent messages to the people of the United States have stirred the soul of the nation and aroused the confidence of its citizens. A radio broadcast, a film talk, or both, from you on the needs of education would give courage to those who are unselfishly supporting this cause, and it would stimulate our people to give adequate financial assistance in training youth for worthy citizenship and economic independence."

## Child Health Conference

A National Conference on Child Health Recovery was held under the auspices of the U. S. Children's Bureau, October 6, in Washington, D. C., preparatory to a nationwide drive to regain ground lost during the depression. Indications of a marked increase in the number of malnourished children prompted this meeting.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins said, in calling the Conference, "At the White House Conference in 1930, we were told that there were at that time 6,000,000 undernourished children in this country. Though data accumulated by the Children's Bureau is more or less fragmentary, it is probably safe to estimate that somewhere in the neighborhood of one-fifth of all preschool and school children are showing signs of poor nutrition, of inadequate housing, of lack of medical care, and many, too, the effect of the anxiety and sense of insecurity that prevail wherever there is unemployment."

Dr. Lillian R. Smith, Summer Round-Up Chairman, and Dr. Adelaide S. Baylor, Homemaking Chairman, represented the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at this Conference.

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"Reconstruction in Education" is the theme of the Fifth Annual Parent Education Institute to be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 2-4. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, First Vicepresident, will represent the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at this meeting.

The 38th National Convention of the National Congress will be held in Des Moines, May 13 to 19, 1934.

## Highlights of Parent-Teacher Information

Gleaned from the 1932-33 *Annual Summary of Parent-Teacher Information*:

The membership of the Congress consists of fathers—15%; mothers—71%; teachers—12%; and bachelor uncles, maiden aunts, grandmothers, grandfathers, and others interested in children—2%; they make up a total of 1,243,715 members. They belong to the following kinds of parent-teacher associations:

|                                                          |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Elementary school.....                                   | 55 % |
| Elementary and high combined.....                        | 8 %  |
| Highschool, junior and senior.....                       | 12 % |
| Rural schools.....                                       | 21 % |
| Preschool .....                                          | 2½%  |
| Parochial schools.....                                   | 1 %  |
| Other types (college, church, private school, etc.)..... | ½%   |

A total of 19,554 local Congress units. (Percentages based on reports from about 40% of the local units.)

What do they do? Last year 2455 local parent-teacher associations in 13 states reported that they carried out 13,842 projects in health, public welfare, home service, and education. They held meetings on a wide variety of topics in the field of child welfare, being particularly interested last year in health, and in topics related to the school. Almost every local unit assisted in some way to alleviate the effects of the depression upon school children.

Approximately 8950 units in 37 states reported that they had organized 5448 study groups for parent education, parent-teacher work, or various forms of adult education, with a total enrolment of 112,525.

During 1932-33, parent-teacher credit courses were held at 24 colleges and parent-teacher conferences took place at 50 educational institutions throughout the United States.

(A copy of this study may be obtained from the National Office for 10 cents. More detailed information is included on local unit membership, kinds of local units, programs, activities, study groups, membership methods, committees, money-raising, social activities, leadership training, etc.)

American Public Health Association convention, Oct. 9-12, Indianapolis.

## Exhibit Service From National Office

*You can make this exhibit.* Parent education exhibits may now be put together easier than the easiest jig-saw puzzle. Everything necessary to make a parent education exhibit has been assembled for the use of parent-teacher workers who want an attractive, informative display for conferences, conventions, and local, council, and district meetings.

This complete set of material, including sketches and directions for assembling the exhibit, may be purchased from the National Office for \$1. Postage prepaid.

### Parent-Teacher Exhibit Posters

"Why belong to the P.T.A.?"

"What does the N.C.P.T. accomplish?"

"What do we get for our money?"

Answers to these questions are given in the new posters of the National Congress, on the following subjects:

Working Together for Children

Because I Belong to a Congress Unit

National Congress Publications for Programs

The Summer Round-Up of the Children

The Congress Emblem

What the Local Unit Package Brings to You

Books for Parent-Teacher Associations

Printed on buff paper, size 17 x 23 inches, the exhibit posters are priced at 20c each, or \$1.20 for the set of seven.

*A Loan Service of an exhibit* on general Congress information and publications is available from the National Office for council, district, and statewide meetings, the borrower paying the return transportation charges. Suggestions concerning the preparation and use of exhibits may be had from the National Office. A section of the new *Publicity Manual* is devoted to exhibits.

### Reference Display Folders

Directions for making one on each of the Seven Objectives of Education and Parent Education have been mailed to state presidents and state offices. These directions will be sent to interested leaders from the National Office on receipt of postage. A sample copy may be secured from the National Office for 75c.

## Home Training Urged

"Auxiliary as the school may be to the home in this matter of moral and religious training, it is not and cannot serve as a substitute . . . There is not and never will be conceived a substitute for the home as the conservator of all that makes for decency, integrity, restraint, purity of motive and act—in a word, moral and religious sanctions that regulate and control habit and practise, and that contribute to those sterling virtues that safeguard the individual and society from dry rot and decay and secure to them the best and most enduring values of life."—Bishop James E. Freeman, in an address to the National Board of Managers, Washington, D. C., Sept. 17, 1933.

*State Procedures*, a 48-page printed pamphlet prepared for the guidance of members of state boards of managers, is just off the press. Copies are being sent to each state for free distribution to all state board members. Additional copies may be purchased from the National Office at 20c each.

*A Publicity Correspondence Course*, based on the new *Publicity Manual for Parent-Teacher Workers*, will be available from the National Office, November 1. The course consists of ten lessons. Registration fee, including copy of the *Publicity Manual*, \$1.

*Now Available*—Plateprints for guidance in using the reports of the conferences held at the Seattle Convention. These conferences, outlined on the reverse of the Child and His Community Poster, and reported in the 1933 *Proceedings*, may be used for programs and for reference. The two plateprints giving suggested questions and references are sent free with each set of posters and each copy of *Proceedings*. They are also available for distribution in limited quantities.

In New York state, Dr. Ruth Andrus, state parent education chairman, has listed as one of the requirements for each study group at least one subscription to *Child Welfare Magazine*, for the group.

## National Committees at Work

### Parent Education and Home Economics

Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Parent Education Chairman, in the October 1933 *Journal of Home Economics*, outlines the following ways in which home economics can be of service in the parent education program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers:

1. In conducting study groups. Home economics teachers can lead classes in clothing, nutrition, home management, buying, and budgeting.
2. In supervising exhibits of better homes, clothing for children, and the like, conducted by parent education study groups.
3. In putting groups and individuals in touch with literature from government, state, and local institutions.
4. In guiding study group projects, such as housing and health, community betterment programs which have to do with better food, better clothing, better budgeting, better buying, and so on.

Radio study groups and radio lectures may be added where radio facilities are available to home economics departments and teachers.

### Motion Picture Conference

Mrs. Robbins Gilman, Motion Picture Chairman, represented the National Congress at the Preliminary Conference preparatory to the International Congress of Educational and Instructional Cinematography, called by Dr. George F. Zook, United States Commissioner of Education, in Washington, D. C., September 25. The Conference was attended by educators and motion picture officials from all over the country.

Two recommendations were made by the Conference:

*First*, that the Office of Education should be the central agency for the collection and dissemination of material on visual education.

*Second*, that the Office of Education should encourage the production of educational motion pictures.

### Libraries and Leisure

"N.R.A. codes are bringing a new leisure to large numbers," says Miss Julia Wright Merrill, Library Service Chairman. "How will they spend this leisure? The library offers opportunity for constructive use. Many will read for recreation. To others, it offers books on hobbies, and indoor and outdoor occupations, and handicrafts . . . What does this mean for state and local parent-teacher committees on library service? Support for the libraries now in existence so that they may meet their new responsibilities. Longtime planning for complete library service, even though new libraries cannot be set up today or tomorrow. Perhaps the state will have to help the rural counties, as Pennsylvania has already done.

"Most important today is the integration of all forces concerned with the new leisure in state and community programs of adult education or recreation. New York has already organized such a program, bringing together school and library and other services for adult education, and using relief funds to finance it! Will other states and communities follow this example?"

### A Safety Report

When a National Committee Chairman reports to the state chairman, that's news! Miss Marian Telford, National Safety Chairman, recently wrote to state safety chairmen in this vein: "You hear so much about mailing your reports to the National Chairman. You hear nothing about a report from the National Chairman to you. I think you will be surprised to learn that your National Chairman is going to submit an annual report to you. You can read the annual report of the Safety Committee in the *Proceedings* but that is primarily a summary of your reports. This report is somewhat different. It's an effort on the part of the National Chairman to tell you what she did last year and what she plans to do this year . . ."

## American Education Week

November 6-12, 1934

"Meeting the Emergency in Education" is the theme for American Education Week. Topics suggested for the day-by-day programs are as follows:

Monday, November 6—The Increased Responsibilities of the Schools.

Tuesday, November 7—Financial Support of the Schools.

Wednesday, November 8—What Citizens May Do to Protect the Schools.

Thursday, November 9—Home and School Cooperation.

Friday, November 10—The Schools and Reconstruction.

Saturday, November 11—The Schools and Loyalty to the Nation.

Sunday, November 12—Safeguarding Character Essentials.

### Our New Name

In harmony with a policy of larger service, this publication, formerly called the *National Office Bulletin*, will in the future bear the name *National Congress Bulletin*.

Our National President believes that the *Bulletin* should "carry information of such immediate interest as to make it serve leaders in attacking current problems."

This *Bulletin* is sent each month to the states for distribution to approximately 2500 members of state boards of managers. Suggestions for improving its usefulness are invited.

A Citizens' Council, sponsored by the Boise, Idaho, Council of parent-teacher associations, recently brought together 60 persons representing "practically every organization in the city," to discuss school needs. Several successful membership councils are reported in Idaho.

Methods of combating child health problems during the coming year was one of the topics considered by the group of nationally known child health specialists comprising the Advisory Committee of the Summer Round-Up of the Children at a meeting held in New York City, September 15. Plans and materials for the 1935 Summer Round-Up Campaign were discussed.

## Parent-Teacher Week

Parent-Teacher Week is being observed by an increasing number of states each year. "The Governor of Idaho has agreed to proclaim Idaho Parent-Teacher Week, November 12-18 again this year," writes Mrs. John E. Hayes, Idaho President. "This is the second proclamation, and we are hoping to establish it as an annual celebration." Nebraska observed Parent-Teacher Week October 1 to 7, and Wyoming inaugurates its first observance with a proclamation by Governor Miller:

### TO THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING:

It gives me great pleasure to endorse the observance of Parent-Teacher Week in the State of Wyoming, October 9 to 14, 1933.

While this is the inauguration of Parent-Teacher Week in Wyoming, it is by no means the first service rendered by that organization in this State. The Wyoming Congress of Parents and Teachers has rendered an outstanding service to the children of our State. It has caused the school to be brought closer to the home, and the home closer to the school, and the fine spirit of co-operation that is prevalent throughout the entire State has resulted in considerable benefit to our education institutions.

I sincerely hope that the people of this State will join in the observance of this week and assist in the future expansion so that the organization might have greater beneficial influences than ever before.

LESLIE A. MILLER,  
Governor.

## Magazine Awards

The first *Gold Stars* awarded in the 1933-34 *Child Welfare Magazine* subscription campaign were earned by

New Jersey in Class A  
Texas in Class B  
Tennessee in Class C  
North Carolina in Class D  
Oklahoma in Class E  
Mississippi in Class F  
Wyoming in Class G

These states are entitled to one Gold Star each for having forwarded the most subscriptions in their respective classes for the period April 1 through September 30, 1933.

Miss Elizabeth Robertson, Assistant Supervisor of Art, Chicago Public Schools, has been elected National Chairman of the Art Committee, to fill the vacancy created last May by the resignation of William H. Vogel.

## Our American Schools

"Education in the National Recovery Program" is the general theme of the "Our American Schools" radio hour, conducted each Sunday at 6:30 p. m., by Florence Hale, Radio Chairman of the National Education Association. These weekly programs, which are broadcast over a nationwide hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company, were resumed October 8, with addresses by Miss Jessie Gray, President of the N.E.A., and Dr. George F. Zook, U. S. Commissioner of Education. Speakers who will be heard during October include Hon. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior; Dr. William Trufant Foster, Expert on Economics; Dr. William D. Boutwell, Editor, *School Life*; and Dr. William G. Carr, Research Director of the N.E.A.

Dr. Adelaide Baylor, Homemaking Chairman, is the author of an article outlining the Work of the Division of Home Economics of the Federal Board for Vocational Education in the July 1933 issue of the *Medical and Professional Woman's Journal*.

A statewide program of education for the prevention of deafness, blindness and crippled conditions of children, resulting from ignorant or unintentional neglect, is being promoted by the Committee on the Exceptional Child, California Congress. Mrs. Richard Simon, Chairman, is intent on bringing information to parents of exceptional children concerning provisions available for the training, education, and care of these children. Six deaf children in one district, who had never attended school, within the past six months have been brought in touch with proper agencies, provided with more normal living conditions, and are now attending school.

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, First Vicepresident of the National Congress, led a panel discussion broadcast from the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, September 27. The subject was "Education in Illinois."

## Child Health Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

The following recommendations and suggestions of the Executive Committee were adopted: (1) that malnourished children be located with special reference to children of families receiving relief; (2) that plans be initiated for the reduction of malnutrition, the prevention of further malnutrition, and for the correction of physical defects. Suggestions: (1) that consideration be given to the needs of children from families on relief or in need even though not on relief; (2) that all ages be included from infancy through adolescence; (3) that arrangements be made for examination of children on relief or in need, and that the physical examination form issued by Children's Bureau be used for such examination; (4) that provision be made for a fee to the doctor for such examination and for correction of defects.

Organization methods for carrying out the recommendations of the Executive Committee were outlined at the conference and included recommendations for the formation of a state committee headed by the State Health Officer and State Director of Child Hygiene and including representatives from State Relief Commissions, Medical and Dental Societies, State Depts. of Education, State Depts. of Welfare, and other non-official and lay groups. It was further recommended that a valuable member of this state committee and similar county and local committees could be the Summer Round-Up chairmen.

Final plans are still to be made for the carrying out in the states of the programs. State presidents and state Summer Round-Up chairmen are urged to get in touch with their Director of Child Hygiene of the State Dept. of Health and to offer the hearty cooperation of the organization in whatever plan may be developed and similar action is urged for local groups.

The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers recently moved its state office from Milwaukee to Madison, where it is now located in rooms 421-422, Insurance Building. Miss Emma Brookmire, former state publicity chairman, has been granted a two-year leave of absence from her duties as supervisor of elementary graded schools in Marinette to serve as field secretary for the Wisconsin Congress.